Application of space technology and remote sensing techniques in agriculture

1544. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the application of space technology and remote sensing techniques the agricultural production in the country can be boosted substantially and more barren lands can be brought under cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what has been the quantum of increase in agricultural production so far with the applications of space technology and remote sensing techniques and what are the future plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Space technology, especially remote sensing techniques, are being used extensively for resource mapping including soils, water, vegetation etc. The information generated through these techniques can then be used for planning more rational resource use.

In recent years using remote sensing techniques along with ground survey, the soil resources including barren lands have been mapped. Similar efforts are being made to standardise techniques for monitoring crop acreage and production. The information base thus being created will help in optimising resource use and agricultural production.

(c) Remote sensing techniques are not a direct input in crop production Programmes and therefore, quantification of their effect is not possible. The information base that these techniques provide help in adopting improved resource use and management.

Study of tobacco cultivation

1545. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any scientists to study the advanced system of tobacco cultivation in foreign countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between our agricultural practices and those of advanced tobacco growing countries;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to close the gap;

(d) whether Government will assist Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Steps have been taken to develop location specific varieties and agrotechnology.

(d) Yes, Sir Improved technologies are transferred to farmers through the Tobacco Board and the Agriculture Department of the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Location specific improved varieties [Gowatmi and VT-1158 for traditional black soils and CM-12 (KA) for northern ligh tsoils] and optimum dose of fertilizer 70 kg nitrogen/ha, 80 kg phosphorus/ha 80 kg potash/ha for northern light soil and only 40—50 kg/ha nitrogen for black soil) have been recommended. Appropriate plant protection technologgy has also been worked out